

King's Island Flood Relief Scheme

# Landscape Design & Public Realm Strategy

December 2019



# Section 2: Materials Palette

## Landscape & Public Realm Design Strategy

### Materials Palette - Walls

The following wall facings and copings have been selected for the relevant sections of the site. The surfacing has generally been selected to match that of the existing wall finishes in the localities of the proposed walls.

#### Areas A1 & A2



Stone surfacing for walls in Areas A1 and A2 to match that of the recently upgraded stretch of wall along Verdant Place (as pictured). The walls are to be stone faced front and back where they are visible from the opposite side of the river. Coping to new walls to be a third of the depth of the existing concrete coping and to be made to a darker colour or painted a dark grey.

#### Areas A6



Stone surfacing for the wall south of the Athlunkard Boat Club on both sides and to the north on the western side to be random rubble surfacing laid in courses with a rough raked rounded mortar coping.

#### Area A7



Stone surfacing for Sir Harry's Mall to match that of the existing wall for consistency. However the existing jagged edge coping along the southern extent of the wall would be replaced with square edged, flat coping. A couple of small lengths of this coping already exist along the wall. This would provide a more pleasant surface for people to lean against when viewing the river.

#### Areas A9 & A10-East



The new concrete walls along these stretches would be faced with rough hewn stone in a snecked pattern laid to courses with a double chamfered rectangular stone coping.

#### Area A10-West



The stone surfacing and coping for the western half of this new concrete wall is to match that of the existing wall in that location (as pictured).

#### Area B1 - East



Stone surfacing and coping for George's Quay East to match that of the existing stone wall at the eastern end, albeit that the wall width and coping proportions would be increased to incorporate the concrete core.

#### Area B3 - Potato Market Ramp and Steps



The outer edges of the proposed pedestrian steps and ramps will be faced to match the stone facing of the existing building and thereby minimise the visual intrusion.

#### Area B3 - Potato Market Boundary



The new concrete flood wall will be faced rough hewn stone in a snecked pattern laid to courses similar to Areas A6 and A9. The coping will be rounded top stone to match the short section of existing coping (see above photo).

#### Area B3 - Curragower Access



The new concrete flood defence wall will be faced on both sides and coped to match the existing outer wall of the Potato Market boundary.

#### Area B3 - City Hall to Castle



The replacement wall will be faced and coped to match the existing section of wall along the northern most set of steps in this area albeit that the wall width and coping proportions would be increased to incorporate the concrete core.

## Landscape & Public Realm Design Strategy

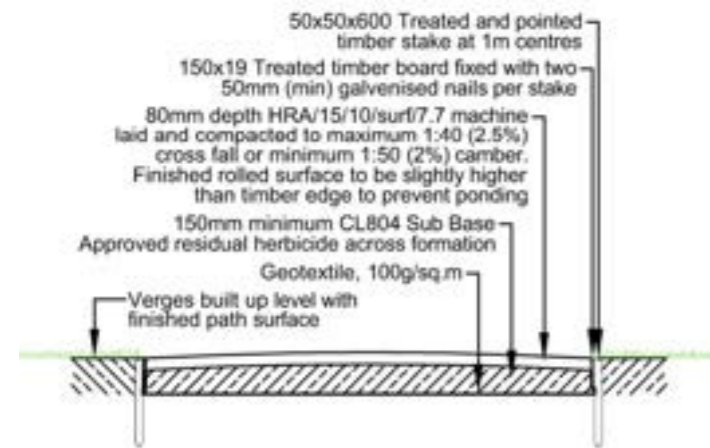
### Materials Palette - Surfaces

The following paving surfaces have been selected for the relevant sections of the site. The surfacing has been selected to match that of the existing surfaces in the localities of the proposed works.

#### Areas A2, A3, A4 & A5



The footpath around the north of the island, such as the embankment path, is to be surfaced in black top. This provides a simple robust surfacing that is unassuming. This can currently be evidenced adjacent to the upgraded section of wall at the Verdant Place Steps.



#### Areas A7, A9, A10 & B3

The footpath around the majority of the south of the island, excluding Georges Quay is to be surfaced in setts. This is in keeping with the existing finishes in these areas and provides a consistency around the southern part of the island.

A section of footpath adjacent to City Hall is currently paved with a different style of block paving. Any small alterations to this as part of the installation of the glass panels should be reinstated with the same type of block paving. However, consideration could be given to replacing this block paving in the long term to tie in with the sett paving to the south around the area directly adjacent to the Courthouse and to the north leading to the Castle.

#### Areas A7, A9, A10 & B3

The existing paving and soldier course of setts is to be retained along the length of George's Quay. The proposed steps up to the wall at the pontoon should match the existing paving. The steps down on the other side of the wall should match the material of the existing upper pontoon.



Existing block paving around City Hall



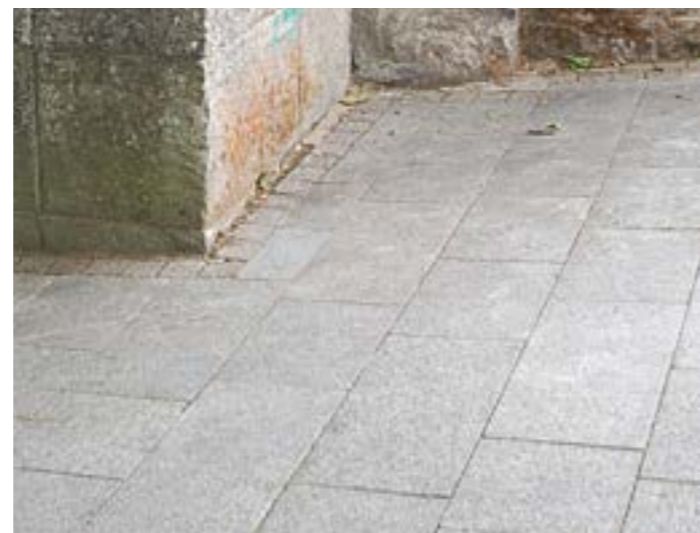
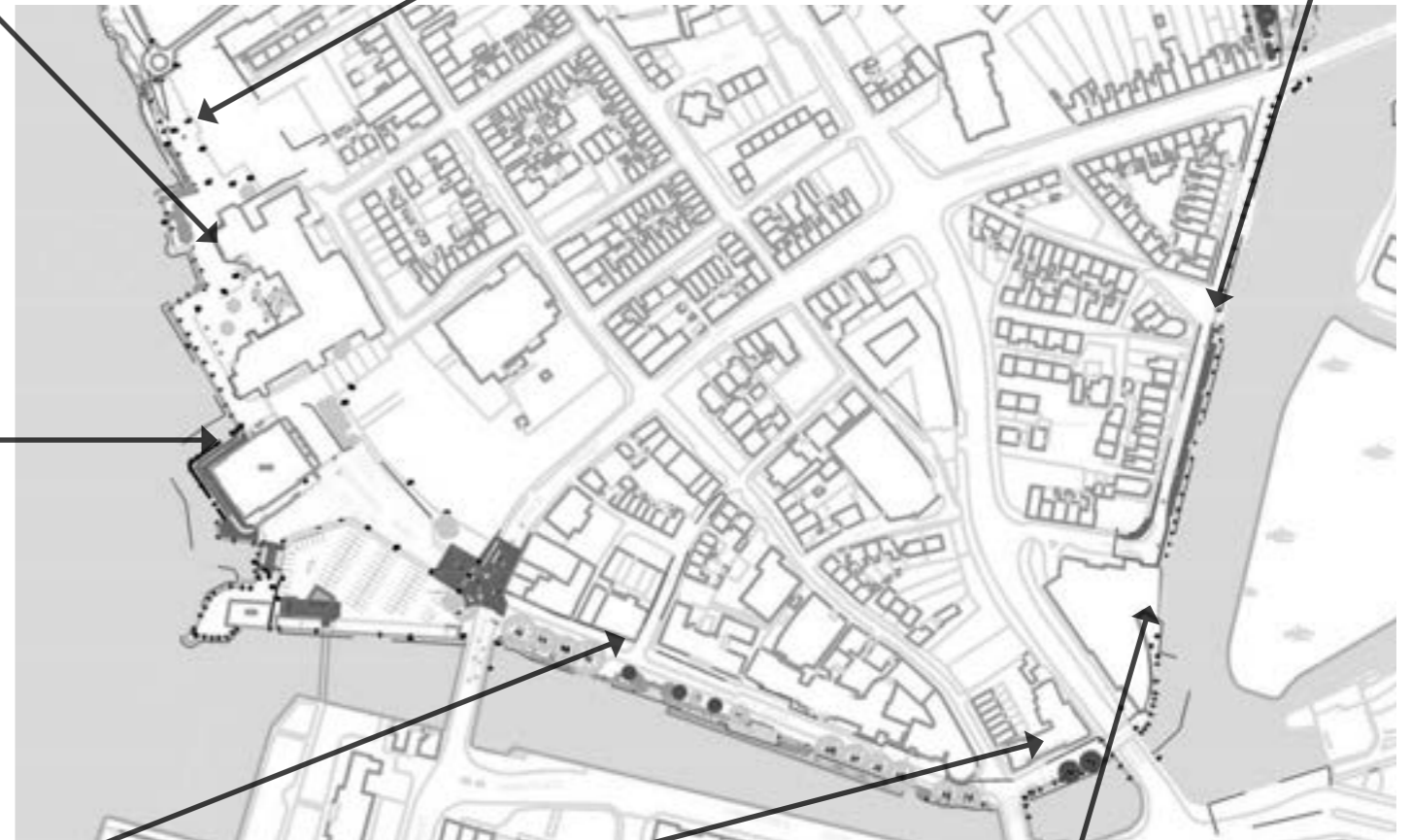
Existing block paving around City Hall



Existing block paving around City Hall



Existing sett paving around Courthouse and associated quay



Existing paving along Georges Quay.



Existing sett paving and soldier course between Abbey Bridge and Baal's Bridge



Existing sett paving and soldier course south of the Absolute Hotel

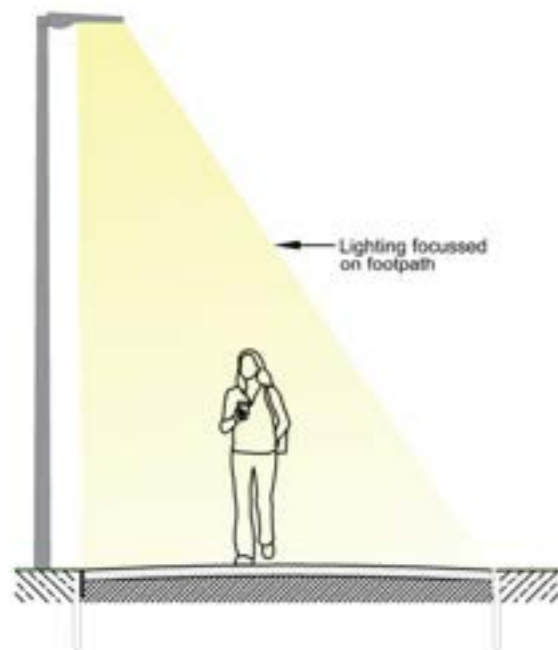
## Landscape & Public Realm Design Strategy

### Materials Palette - Lighting

The following lighting has been selected for the path around the north of the island from Verdant Place Steps to Athlunkard Boat Club. The lights would be mounted on top of plain 6m poles. This has been selected to provide a simple, robust form that blends in within this semi-rural setting. This is in contrast with something more elaborate which would take away from the rural feeling of the embankment walkway.



Potential lighting type: *Functional LED Road Lighting (386)* from Light.ie or similar.



The proposed lighting would be focussed so that it illuminates the path. This will ensure the lighting does not passively illuminate the SAC beyond the embankment or cause light pollution for any houses.



Examples of the proposed lighting type along a path set within a greenspace context.

# Section 3: Future Potential Enhancement

### 3.1 North of King's Island

**Introduction**

There are a number of further potential enhancements that could be carried out along the proposed embankment in the north of the island. These are not proposed at the moment as they are additional to the main components of the flood defence proposals. These enhancements are set out in the following paragraphs for future consideration.

**Woodland Planting**

Blocks of woodland planting are suggested on the inside of the proposed embankment. These would help naturalise the proposed embankment. They would also increase the habitat types and improve the biodiversity of the area.

**Avenue Tree Planting**

This suggested avenue tree planting along Oliver Plunkett Street would filter views of the existing homes from the embankment whilst allowing some views out from the homes. The avenue alignment of the trees would also provide additional definition and context to the street.

**Break Out Areas**

The addition of benches to the break out areas is suggested as a potential future enhancement measure. These benches will provide places for people to take a rest, interact or meet up with one another or simply take in the views of the River Shannon. Outdoor exercise equipment could also be added to these areas, providing the path with an additional use as an exercise trail. This would encourage increased usage along the path.



Potential future enhancement planting within the north of King's Island.



Potential future enhancement planting within the north of King's Island.



Potential future enhancement planting within the north of King's Island.

### 3.2 Civic Area

#### Medieval Quarter Public Realm Plan

A study was previously carried out to develop an overall strategy for the public realm of the Medieval Quarter. A number of elements from this study could be incorporated in the future alongside the proposed flood defence works. These are set out below and illustrated in the visualisations.

#### Merchant's Quay and Potato Market

- New footbridge to replace the existing Sylvester O'Halloran footbridge, with new landing areas at either end that double as viewing and seating areas.
- Removal and replacement of Potato Market riverside buildings with a new low flood defence wall or glass panels. Creation of new riverside promenade, directly linked to the Hunt Museum and Matthew Bridge.
- Existing Potato Market gate piers relocated to Bridge Street entrance.
- The creation of a new shared-surface civic space with provision for car and coach parking or public events. This area would extend from City Hall and the existing Courts building to Bridge Street and the Abbey River.

#### Courthouse to Castle

- Surface finishes upgraded to granite, new waterfront amenity lighting and signage.
- New interpretation material illustrating key heritage features, such as the former Medieval House and Mill building.
- Widened ramp up to the edge of castle and Castle Lane with improved granite surfacing.
- New viewing terraces in northern area, hard and soft, with seating/picnic tables and panoramic display boards.
- Floodlighting of key buildings and the river.
- New informal performance area with provision of electrical connections for events.
- Existing water feature repaired.



Potential future enhancement of the Potato Market and adjoining areas into a shared surface parking area.



The same enhanced shared surface area functioning as a civic events space instead of parking.



Existing ramped access with proposed glass panels.



Potential future stepped seating terrace and improved ramp access between City Hall and the Castle.